

A regional system— serving our local partners and you

Under the regional system established by voters in 1958, the local sewer utilities no longer build and operate their own individual treatment plants.

The local sewer agencies that contract with King County (listed at right) manage, operate and maintain 5,100 miles of collection pipes along with numerous pump and regulator stations. The local agencies collect wastewater from residences and businesses and transport it to King County's regional system of pipelines, tunnels and treatment plants.

The amount the local utility pays King County for this service is based on the current wholesale monthly sewer rate of \$27.95 and the number of customers the local utility serves.

The monthly sewer rate you pay to your local utility includes the county's monthly wholesale rate of \$27.95, plus the rate set by your local sewer utility to cover its costs in building, operating and maintaining its local collection system.

This also explains why your monthly bill comes from your local sewer utility instead of King County – because people do not connect directly to our regional sewer system. (King County does directly bill newly connecting customers for the capacity charge they pay in addition to their monthly sewer bill – for more information see Page 14).

The local agencies that pay King County for collecting and treating their wastewater are important stakeholders who advise Wastewater Treatment Division management and staff as well as the King County Executive and Council on issues related to sewage collection and treatment.

Why a regional system?

There are several advantages to a regional system. It is less expensive overall to construct and operate a few large treatment facilities rather than numerous smaller ones. It allows costs to be spread over a larger customer base, which helps keep rates stable. Everyone contributes and everyone benefits from clean water and a healthy environment – our natural amenities, including Lake Washington and Puget Sound, are a true regional treasure and it's the collective responsibility of everyone to protect them.

The customer agencies served by King County

Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
City of Algona, Public Works
City of Auburn, Public Works
City of Bellevue, Utility Services
City of Black Diamond, Public Works
City of Bothell, Public Works
City of Brier, Public Works
City of Carnation, Public Works
Cedar River Water & Sewer District
Coal Creek Utility District
Cross Valley Water District
Highlands Sewer District
City of Issaquah, Public Works
City of Kent, Public Works
City of Kirkland, Public Works
City of Lake Forest Park, Public Works
Lakehaven Utility District
City of Mercer Island, Maintenance
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Northeast Sammamish Sewer & Water District
Northshore Utility District
Olympic View Water and Sewer District
City of Pacific, Public Utilities
City of Redmond, Public Works
City of Renton, Public Works
Ronald Wastewater District
Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District
City of Seattle, Public Utilities
Skyway Water and Sewer District
Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
City of Tukwila, Public Works
Valley View Sewer District
(formerly Val Vue Sewer District)
Vashon Sewer District
Woodinville Water District